

Winter
2024

Vol. 06 Edition 1

HOW TIME FLIES...

Monthly News & Events

HIGH PLAINS WESTERN HERITAGE CENTER | SPEARFISH, SD



Volunteer Profiles:

Bob & Judy Luebke HPWHC Volunteers

by Larry Miller

Judy and Bob Luebke grew up in North Dakota farm and ranch country – Judy near South Heart, not far from Dickinson in the western part of the state. She graduated from South Heart High School in 1970 and then pursued a nursing degree at the Bismarck Hospital School of Nursing, which she earned in 1973. She then went to work as a registered nurse at the Bismarck Hospital.

Bob's parents had a small dairy and farming operation near Barney, tucked away in southeastern North Dakota. He graduated from nearby Wyncmere High School in 1970 and continued his education at the State School of Science in Wahpeton, graduating in 1973. That's when he headed for Bismarck, taking a job with Schmit-Smith and Rush in Bismarck for about three years – employment that took him on the road to locations not only across North Dakota, but Montana and South Dakota as a consulting engineer on REA

systems.

It was during this time – through mutual friends – that Bob and Judy met and began a courtship. They were married September 14, 1974 at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Dickinson. Following their honeymoon to the Black Hills of South Dakota, they made their home in Bismarck.

Judy stepped down from her nursing job at Bismarck Hospital after about 20 years. Bob worked most of his career – some 35 years – at the massive Milton R. Young Power Plant located 40 miles northwest of Bismarck in Oliver County. His was about an 80-mile commute daily for some 35 years, until he retired in 2014. In retirement, he took a part-time job at a local Ace Hardware store.

Bob and Judy raised two sons in Bismarck. Their older boy, Chris, is a Special Education teacher in Sacramento and has one grown son; the Luebke's younger boy, Jonathan, is also a teacher and lives in Minneapolis-St. Paul. He has an 11-year-old daughter and an 8-year-old son.

While Bob and Judy had seen some of the Black Hills on their honeymoon, it was an invitation from friends to come visit them at a time-share near Terry Peak that spurred the notion of relocating to this region. They visited Spearfish and the rest is history!

In 2020, after 46 years in Bismarck, the Luebkes moved to Spearfish where they are active in St. Paul's Lutheran



Judy and Bob Luebke

Church. Judy loves reading and is a volunteer at the church; Bob became a member of the Spearfish Lions Club and also enjoys woodworking, turning

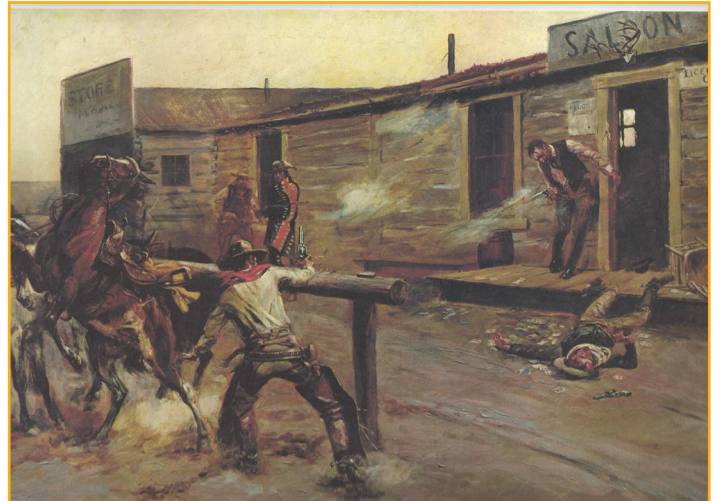
Luebke Con't. Pg 2

Vaughn Sculpture Artwork Underway

The base of our iconic Tennessee Vaughn sculpture in our Founder's Hall is getting a face lift. Spearfish artist Tim Peterson is hard at work creating a memorial that will surround the base. The work is sponsored by the Lois Vaughn Nikodym memorial fund. It is expected to be completed in March before our spring opening.



Gunfight at Stoneville coming to HPWHC Apr. 27



The Axelbee Gang and the Gunfight at Stoneville, Montana Territory on February 14, 1884.

In territorial days a band of outlaws known as the Axelbee Gang operated in Montana, Wyoming and the Dakota Territories. Stoneville (now Alzada, Montana) was a lawless frontier settlement and one of their havens.

In 1884 the Axelbee Gang and lawmen from the Black Hills met at Stoneville for a fatal clash.

If you are interested in hearing more about this gunfight and the people involved, please join us for the presentation.

Join us for our April Speaker Series!

This year featuring Dr. David Wolff, Dawn Newland & Kimberly Kaye, and Mike Madler. More details on the back page and on our website.

Seasonal Closure

The High Plains Western Heritage Center is in its annual seasonal closure during January through March. We will reopen on April 1st. During this time we will be available for group tours or private family tours.

Call us to make arrangements.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday April 6 - 1:00PM

HPWHC Speaker Series

Dr. David Wolff presents

“Preserving Black Hills Cabins: Stories that May or May Not be True”

Voluntary donation to HPWHC at the door.

Saturday April 13 - 1:00PM

We Pen the West

Book presentations by western authors

Dawn Newland and Kimberly Kaye.

Presenting character portrayals of significant moments in their novels.

Voluntary donation to HPWHC at the door.

Saturday April 27 - 1:00PM

Mike Madler presents the

Axelbee Gang and the Gunfight at Stoneville

Voluntary donation to HPWHC at the door.

Sunday June 23 - 2:00PM

High Plains Live! - Carol Markstrom

Award-winning western musician and singer

\$10 General / \$15 for Reserved

Sunday June 30 - 1:30PM

Debra Christofferson Movie Career Presentation & Reception

This will be a day to highlight the movie career of Spearfish's own Deb Christofferson. Hosted by Paul Higbee. No Admission Charge

Sunday July 21 - 2:00PM

Day of the American Cowboy

Featuring cowboy musician Paul Larson and cowboy poet Ken Cook.

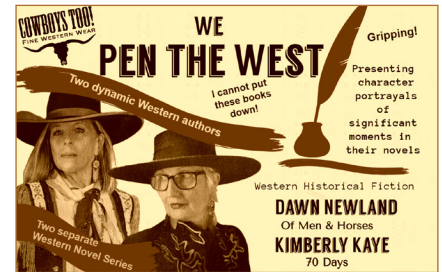
Stay tuned for additional details!

UPCOMING:

The 2024 Cowboy Supper Show

September dates open to the public.

Chuckwagon buffet supper and a live cowboy music show in our theater!



Saturday April 13

For additional events check our website: www.WesternHeritageCenter.com/upcoming-events



825 Heritage Drive | Spearfish, SD 57783

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bowls and other pieces. Their shared love of history soon found them joining historical societies in Sturgis and Deadwood, as well as Spearfish!

While visiting High Plains Western Heritage Center and getting acquainted with Director Karla Scovell last year, the possibility of volunteering was discussed, and they've been on board ever since!

They particularly enjoy interacting with the many tour bus visitors from across the country. Their enthusiasm is contagious. We hope you'll soon have an opportunity to meet Bob and Judy Luebke – two more dedicated volunteers who help the High Plains Western Heritage Center in sharing the rich history of our five-state region. Thank you Judy and Bob Luebke!

“Pen the West” Book Presentation April 13

Dawn Newland and Kimberly Bachman, writers from Belle Fourche, South Dakota, each published a Western novel series in 2023. They are teaming up for a book tour this year. Having been selected for the Tombstone Western Book Festival, they will present at High Plains Western Heritage in Spearfish, South Dakota, April 13th, at 1p.m.

Dawn Newland is a Western artist and weaver of the threads of history. She lives on a ranch at the three-state corner of Wyoming, Montana, and South Dakota. Her roots run deep in the soil of the west that was. She is the author and illustrator of the “Of Men And Horses” series

Kimberly Kaye makes her home on the sprawling prairie along the Wyoming

border of South Dakota. Raised in the flatlands of rural Iowa on a working farm, she is no stranger to driving equipment, tending livestock, and throwing bales.

Author of ‘70 Days’ and the sequel ‘The Next Few Years,’ she captivates her readers with the harrowing tale of six incredible women who come together and drive cattle across the entire state of South Dakota.

Sponsored by Cowboys Too in Belle Fourche, their novels will be available for signing at the event in April, or in the store in Belle Fourche, on Amazon, and can be shipped directly from the authors via email request.

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